So Now We’ve Picked an Evidence-Based Program, What’s Next? Perspectives of Service Providers and Administrators


**SUMMARY:** Evidence-based parenting intervention programs have ample research to support their effectiveness; however, these programs are not being widely used in community settings. This study surveyed administrators and providers of organizations offering the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program regarding organizational views and provider use. Results suggest there is an overall willingness toward and adherence with the program, and suggestions for successful implementation are made.

**KEY FINDINGS:**
- Overall, most organizations were open to implementing the Triple P program (92%); however, many administrators reported resistance from key personnel in implementing Triple P (52%).
- Seventy percent of the providers trained in Triple P had used the program and 26% had not.
- Providers’ average adherence to the program during their most recent session was 86%.
- Most commonly reported reasons for provider non-adherence were not having enough time in session, believing that an activity was not relevant to the parent, and forgetting an activity.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR MILITARY PROFESSIONALS:**
Military professionals could:
- Help develop online training to educate professionals working with military parents and families about evidence-based interventions and best practices in parenting programs
- Facilitate focus groups for other professionals working with military families to discuss concerns and strategies related to implementing new parenting programs and evidence-based techniques

**IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMS:**
Programs could:
- Educate military parents about how to choose a parenting intervention program to participate in and how to know if a program is evidence-based
- Offer support groups for military parents beginning a parenting program to enable them to encourage one another and discuss the difficulties associated with changing parenting behaviors

**IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICIES:**
Policies could:
- Encourage the training of all professionals working with military families regarding the importance of using evidence-based interventions, including for parenting programs
- Promote the use of evidence-based manuals and materials in military parent education programs

This product is the result of a partnership funded by the Department of Defense between the Office of Military Community and Family Policy and the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture through a grant/cooperative agreement with The University of Minnesota.

[www.reachmilitaryfamilies.umn.edu](http://www.reachmilitaryfamilies.umn.edu)
METHODS

- Administrators of organizations using the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program were recruited via phone and email from a list provided by a Canadian youth mental health organization.
- Administrators were asked to complete a survey on program implementation and to distribute a survey on program use and adherence to the providers in their organizations.
- Frequency of program implementation factors (e.g., readiness, resistance, openness), provider use of and adherence to the program, and reasons for non-adherence were calculated.

PARTICIPANTS

- Participants included 63 administrators (87% response rate) and 215 providers (61% response rate) from programs offering Triple P.
- Providers included therapists (35%), social workers (27%), parent educators (11%), childcare staff (11%), nurses (9%), or other family providers (7%).
- Providers had an average of 18 months (SD = 14.26) of experience with Triple P.
- No data on participant age, gender, race, or ethnicity were provided.

LIMITATIONS

- Using an administrator's rating of the overall organization's views on implementing a program, rather than measures of many individual's views, may have resulted in biased data.
- Providers may have rated their adherence rates higher in order to appear compliant and respond in a way that they perceived as most accepted by researchers and their supervisors.
- It is possible that there were differences in rates of the use of the Triple P program between providers who did and did not respond to the survey.

AVENUES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Future research could:

- Examine specific reasons why providers trained in an evidence-based parenting program may not use that program (e.g., no opportunity or clients, use of other evidence-based programs)
- Investigate provider barriers to receiving training in evidence-based parent intervention programs (e.g., time, travel, cost)
- Explore parent perceptions of evidence-based parent intervention programs and parent preferences regarding available interventions

ASSESSING RESEARCH THAT WORKS

- Design: Appropriately Rated 3 stars
- Methods: Appropriately Rated 3 stars
- Limitations: Few, Rated 2 stars

For more information about the Assessing Research that Works rating scale visit: https://reachmilitaryfamilies.umn.edu/content/assessing-research-that-works